in February, 1998 for design, development, production and marketing of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with share capital of $250 Million, contributed by India and Russia in the ratio of 50.5% and 49.5%, respectively. The share capital was enhanced by $50 million to include the development of aircraft version of the missile. Therefore, the contribution from the Indian side was Rs. 634 crores. DRDO also contributed Rs. 370 crores to realize the required infrastructure, technologies, production facilities and systems for Indian Armed Forces.

(b) and (c) Performance improvement of the missile system is an on-going process and suitable actions have been initiated.

Manufacture of MBT Arjun

†3699. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the indigenously made Main Battle Tank scheme for the Army commenced and the amount incurred so far on it;

(b) when the approval for systematic manufacture of the Main Battle Tank Arjun was accorded and its outcome;

(c) whether the pace of its manufacturing is slow in the name of technical shortcomings; if so, by when these would be removed;

(d) whether Government would take cooperation of private sector in this scheme as a joint venture; and

(e) the plan to meet the military requirements till commissioning of Arjun tanks in the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The production of Main Battle Tank Arjun has commenced at Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF)— Avadi, Chennai. Army has placed an indent for manufacture of 124 Tanks at a cost of Rs. 1760 crore. As on 31st March 2007, HVF has made an expenditure of Rs. 1270.82 crore against this indent.

(b) An indent for manufacture of 124 Tanks has been placed on Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in March 2000. Five Tanks have already been handed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

over to Army in 2005 and nine more Tanks are ready for delivery. The remaining quantity is expected to be delivered by 2009.

(c) All issues related to production of MBT Arjun have been resolved and the production is getting stabilized.

(d) At present there is no such proposal to take cooperation of private sector as a joint venture. However, private sector is involved in the project as supplier of various components/assemblies.

(e) Presently, Army is using tanks imported from various countries.

Import of trainer aircrafts from Britain

3700. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to import trainer aircraft from Britain to replace MIG-21; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether HAL can produce these aircrafts in India; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for import?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Government have approved the induction of 66 Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) aircraft from M/s BAF Systems of the United Kingdom to replace MiG-21 FL aircraft, as there was no indigenous replacement for the aircraft. 24 aircraft will be supplied by BAF systems in flyaway condition and 42 aircraft will be license manufactured in India by M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Crash of combat aircrafts

3701. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and type-wise details of the combat aircrafts lost in crashes during the last three years;

(b) how many of these aircrafts were manufactured, overhauled or upgraded by the HAL and when; and